Christ Lutheran Church

"The Church You Can't Forget"

Founded 1887

CHARLES AND HILL STREETS

BALTIMORE, MD. 21230

1958-1972

85th Anniversary

December 10, 1972

We are deeply indebted to Miss Gloria Paar, an active member of Christ Church, who has undertaken the very extensive and thorough research which has made possible the writing of this history.

DECEMBER 1972

Message from the Pastor

This message of gratitude could be written by any one who has benefited spiritually from association with Christ Lutheran Church during the eighty-five years of its history. In writing these few words I speak for all of us throughout the years.

Christ Church has molded the lives of thousands of Christians during its history. The ministry of sainted pastors, the warmth and compassion of members, the loyalty and steadfastness of the saints for eighty-five years—all of these factors together have produced "The Church You Can't Forget."

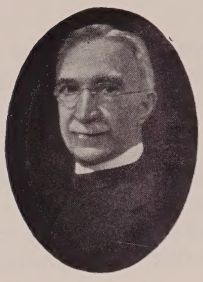
From the time of the first service in "Triumph Hall" in 1887 to the celebration of our 85th Anniversary in a beautiful and spacious house of God in 1972, we have been especially blessed by the grace of God. Without God's love and grace throughout these wonderful years, we would not be here today nor would we be able to render the outstanding Christian service to mankind that marks this occasion.

God has been good to all of us. He has guided our path through many difficult and trying experiences. He has never "left us or forsaken us."

Outside the famous Trinity Church in Boston there stands a large statue of Phillips Brooks. Standing behind this outstanding preacher is a larger statue of the Christ with His hand upon the shoulder of this great Christian. This symbolism portrays the history of Christ Church —the hand of Christ upon the lives of great pastors and members throughout our history. Without His constant presence we could accomplish nothing. With Him "we can do all things." Let us pray for His guidance in the wonderful years which lie before us.

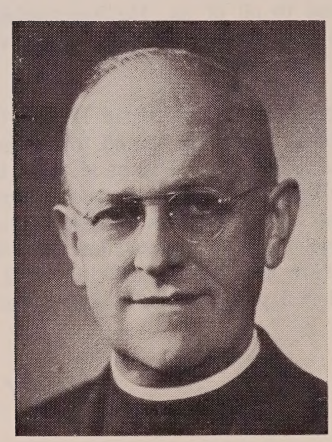
Carl W. Folkemer

Pastors and former Pastors

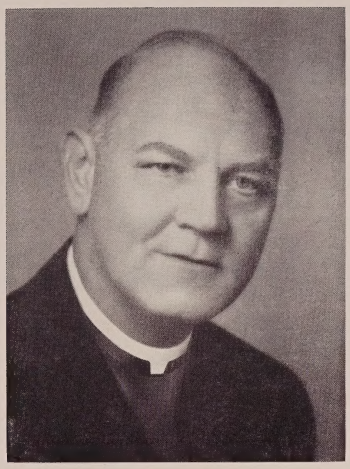


THE REV. L. M. ZIMMERMAN, D.D.
Founder and Pastor
1887-1925

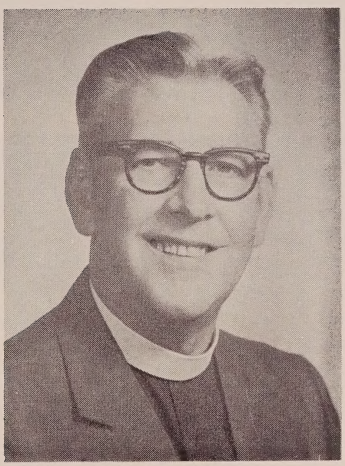
THE REV. O. F. BLACKWELDER, D.D.
Second Pastor
1925-1933



THE REV. JOHN L. DEATON, D.D.
Third Pastor
1934-1960



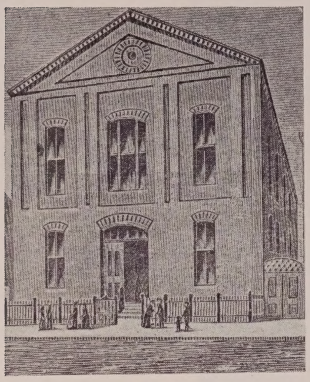
THE REV. WARREN C. JOHNSON, D.D.
Fourth Pastor
1961-1964



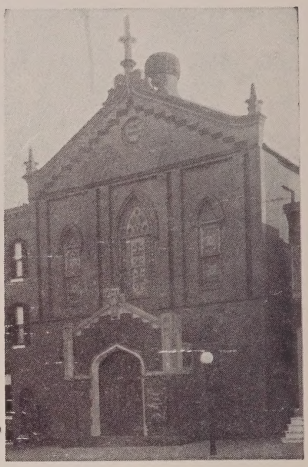
THE REV. CARL W. FOLKEMER, D.D.
Fifth and Present Pastor
1965-

Historical Facts

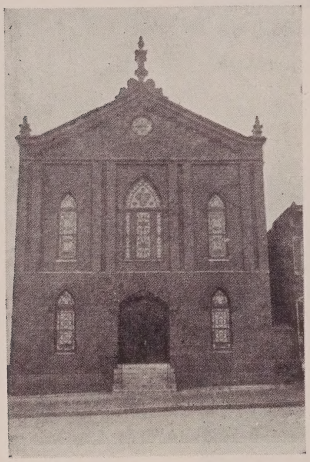
"Thou shalt remember all the way which the Lord thy God led thee."



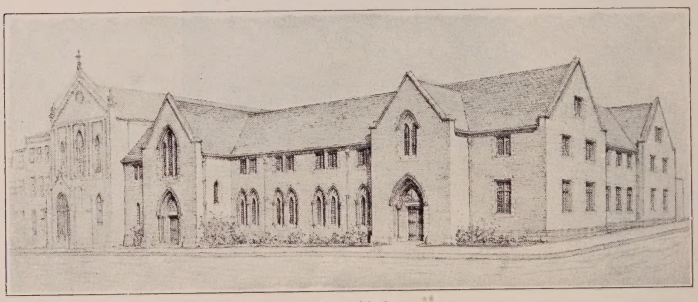
1888-1894



1919-1936

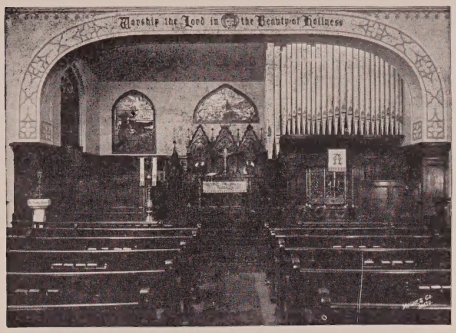


1894-1919

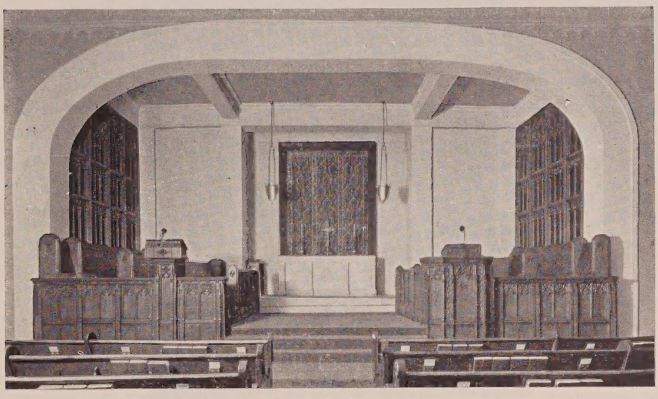


1936-1958

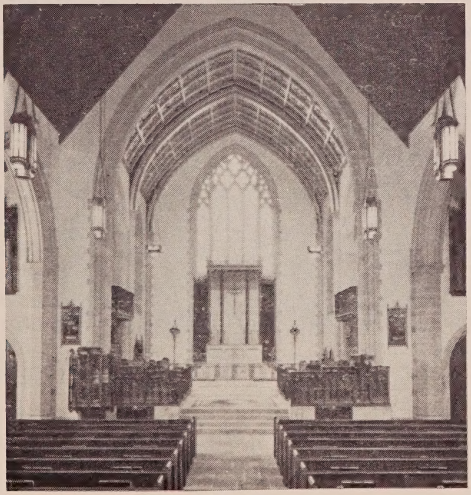
CHANCEL AND NAVE OF CHRIST CHURCH



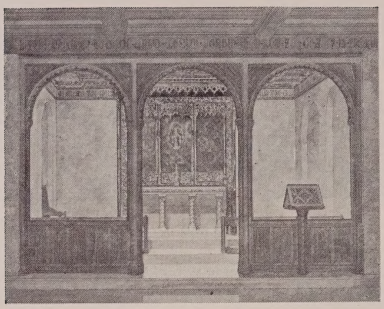
1927



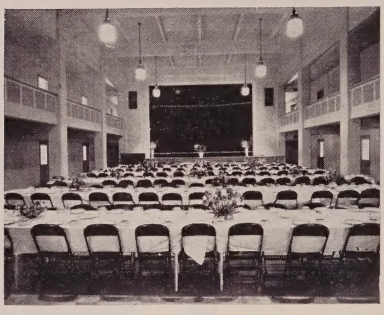
1955



1958-1972



CHANCEL—CHILDREN'S CHAPEL



FELLOWSHIP HALL

TYPICAL CLASSROOM

History of Christ Church

THE PERIOD OF BEGINNING

"The Church You Can't Forget." This motto has been used by Christ Lutheran Church of Baltimore since 1925. Dr. Leander M. Zimmerman, first pastor of this beloved congregation composed a poem with this title on the occasion of the 40th Anniversary of the Church in 1927.

What is the significance of this motto and why does it appear each week on the front cover of the "Church Visitor"? What has made this congregation a Christian family that people remember wherever they go? There are many reasons and this brief history will point them out. Statements like the following can be heard from many people: "I was married in that Church"; "My father was baptized in Christ Church"; "Oh, you mean 'Zimmerman's Church' "; "No matter where I am when I die I want to be buried from Christ Church." These are just some of many statements that one is likely to hear about the congregation. Put together, what they all mean is, "This is a unique family of God."

To understand the history of Christ Church one must understand the ethnic situation of South Baltimore in the 19th Century. A large German immigration got off the boat at the Baltimore harbor and settled right where they disembarked. Lutheran, Roman Catholic and other German-speaking Protestants immediately established their own churches. There were at least three German-speaking Lutheran congregations already in existence in South Baltimore before 1887. As in other parts of the country, language became a real problem in the development of Lutheran congregations.

Christ Church was subsequently begun as an English-speaking congregation because of the desire of younger people for a Church using that language. At a meeting in February 1888 at Triumph Hall the name of "Christ English Evangelical Lutheran Church" was accepted as the name of this congregation.

The "Lutheran Church Extension Society of Baltimore City" was formed to assist struggling congregations in Baltimore and to plan strategic locations of new congregations.

Pastor Leander M. Zimmerman was called by this society in May of 1887 to survey the South Baltimore area. In November of that same year the Society rented "Triumph Hall" at 1240 Light Street for $20.00 a month to begin a Sunday School. The new young minister began his work officially as pastor on December 1, 1887 and conducted the first service of Christ English Evangelical Lutheran Church on December

18, 1887 with 150 people in attendance and 115 people later that day for evening worship. There were 97 pupils who attended Sunday School that morning. During the next two months this diligent pastor made over 600 visits. The result was the formal organization of Christ English Evangelical Lutheran Church, Sunday, February 5, 1888 with a charter membership of 220 people. Elected to the first Church Council were:

Elders—Mr. G. W. Metcalfe	Deacons—Mr. E. M. Rice
Mr. A. H. Weaver	Mr. L. Schaffer
Mr. F. Ritterhoff	Mr. I. H. Robertson
Mr. J. M. Hurmann	Mr. Wm. Kothe, Treas.

Within four months after the first service the congregation had grown to 355 members, necessitating a different place of worship. After much negotiation, the New Sailors' City Bethel Methodist Episcopal Church on Hill Street was purchased for $3,000 and became the permanent location of Christ Lutheran Church. After extensive renovation and purchase of the building adjoining the Church to house the Sunday School, the first service in the new buildings was conducted on August 12, 1888 with formal dedication on November 25th of the same year. On November 29th, four days later, the congregation held a meeting and voted to become "self-sustaining." December 1, 1888, just one year after Pastor Zimmerman officially began his ministry, the congregation became "self-supporting." The Ladies' Aid Society and the Sunday School contributed greatly to the re-furbishing of the new church building.

At the festival of the second Christmas celebration of Christ Church, 1889, the pastor presented to the congregation a musical six-foot Christmas tree, made in Germany. The music box still operates after eighty-three years and although the tree itself has lost some needles, the tree and music box can be seen in the Church every year at Christmas time.

Four years after organization, January 31, 1892 the congregation announced that it was "free of debt." Extensive renovations were made by the summer of 1894 with the chancel moved from the south to the east wall and the addition of a south balcony to complement the balcony at the north end. In addition, another house was purchased for the use of the sexton and his family. With many gifts, the Church was re-dedicated October 14, 1894. During this same month the Christ Church Deaconess Society was organized with seven women "set apart" as parish "sisters." Not only did they care for the altar but visited among the sick, the troubled, wayward children and the poor. This Society was really the forerunner of what was later called the "Altar Guild." The devoted leader of this group was Sister Carrie Taylor who served for over forty years as a devoted deaconess of Christ Church.

At the time of the seventh Anniversary of the congregation, 1894, the membership numbered 915 people. To indicate the tireless efforts of Pastor Zimmerman, during the first six years 455 children were baptized, 176 couples were married, 212 funerals were conducted and 11,000 pastoral visits were made. Is it any wonder that the oft-repeated comment was made, "The pastor wore out more shoe-leather than any other minister in Baltimore." In addition to his spiritual ministry he led the congregation to the point where it was once more "debt-free" by the 12th Anniversary in the year 1899.

On the occasion of the 15th Anniversary of the Church, December 14, 1902 the congregation was shocked to hear their beloved pastor say that perhaps after fifteen years with the same people his effectiveness may be at an end and he should move on to a new congregation. Many tears were shed that day. A reception followed the service and for an hour-and-a-half members greeted their pastor and begged him to remain. Their response of love and faithfulness was God's answer to him to continue as the pastor of "The Church You Can't Forget."

Various organizations were formed during the pastorate of Dr. Zimmerman. The Men's Bowling League was organized in 1903 and is still very much alive—the oldest continuous Church Bowling League in Baltimore. The Ladies' Aid Society, later to be known by Lutheran Church Women, has already been referred to. The Junior and Senior Christian Endeavor Societies, later to be called Luther League, were formed in the year 1904.

Many newspaper articles throughout the years gave tribute to Christ Church and to its beloved first pastor. On July 17, 1915 a whole page of pictures and captions in a Baltimore paper showed Dr. Zimmerman and his congregation of 2,000 members gathered at Grove 10 in Druid Hill Park from early morning through twilight, consuming 7 bushels of peanuts, 1200 blocks of ice cream and 50 pounds of candy. In an article which appeared in the Baltimore Evening Sun of 1918 under the title "A Church Downtown Doing Work All Around," it was stated that the purpose of Christ Church was "to be as great a blessing as possible to as many people as possible, as long as possible." Christ Church had become so successful that in the year 1918 it had the largest membership of any Lutheran Church in the City of Baltimore.

On Sunday, April 19, 1925 the "Daddy Pastor" (by which title he often referred to himself), Dr. Zimmerman, delivered his final sermon as pastor of Christ Church. Failing health was the reason for his resignation just a few months before his 65th birthday. On that April 19th eighteen hundred devoted parishioners crowded the nave, balconies and Sunday School rooms, with tears in their eyes and heavy hearts to pay tribute to a truly great "man of God."

It seems fitting at this part of our historical sketch of Christ Church to write more about our first pastor.

Leander M. Zimmerman was born August 29, 1860 on a farm in Manchester, Maryland. He was the youngest of twelve children and the seventh son of a seventh son. He graduated from Gettysburg College in 1884 and from the Gettysburg Seminary in 1887. He was ordained to the Christian Ministry October 8, 1887 at Williamsport, Maryland. His first and only pastorate was Christ Church to which he was called by the Board of Home Missions of the General Synod of the Lutheran Church. He began his work in South Baltimore, December 1, 1887.

Dr. Zimmerman remained a bachelor all his life, constantly referring to the fact that the Church was his "bride." He lived first at 521 S. Hanover Street and then moved April 1, 1905, one block North to 421 S. Hanover Street. It was in this very modest residence that he counselled hundreds of people and performed many marriages. Almost every Sunday he ate with members of the congregation.

In the first year as pastor he made over 3,400 pastoral visits. Within one year he brought the congregation of 400 members to "self-supporting" status. He was far ahead of his time in promotional methods --publishing little booklets every four months, giving dates and times of services with sermon topics for every service. He encouraged people to attend worship by sending personal cards to members, often with his own picture or that of the Church on the card. He was a prolific writer, publishing love stories, prose works and many booklets of poems. His best known and most quoted poem was his "Roses will bloom again."

In addition to the work in his own parish, Dr. Zimmerman served as President of the Maryland Synod in 1900, for many years as President of the Board of the Lutheran Deaconess Motherhouse in Baltimore, Vice-President of the Board of Home Missions and for more than twenty-five years a member of the Board of Trustees of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg. Susquehanna University conferred upon him the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity in 1901. Later he became a member of the Society of Science, the Letters and Arts of London and the Gettysburg College Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa.

Fearing a physical collapse from over-work, Dr. Zimmerman submitted a letter of resignation as pastor of Christ Church in 1918 with the intention of concentrating his efforts as head of the Lutheran Inner Mission Society of Baltimore. The Church Council refused his resignation and offered longer periods of vacation. For the next seven years his health failed and on April 19, 1925 he preached his final sermon as pastor after thirty-eight years of service, leaving a congregation of 2,000 members—the largest Lutheran Church in Baltimore. An issue

of *The Lutheran* magazine dated May 7, 1925 published an article about him in which he was referred to as "Baltimore's greatest pastor for a generation." The March 20, 1925 issue of the *Baltimore American* newspaper stated concerning him: "All Baltimore, without regard for creed or race joins in the hope that he may be spared and that to him may be granted strength to continue in his own way to serve God, the country and this community." The *Baltimore News,* March 18, 1925 recorded the words: "Dr. Zimmerman's retirement is a real loss to Baltimore. You hear about downtown church problems and how to keep churches going in old sections usually ending in a lament that 'little can be done.' For 37 years he held the battlefront . . . there is no downtown problem when such a man leads the forces of righteousness."

Dr. Zimmerman, now "Pastor Emeritus," continued to render service to Christ Church for twenty-five more years in spite of several major operations. He preached every Christmas, Easter and Thanksgiving Day with his last sermon delivered on Easter Sunday, 1950. On March 10, 1952 this beloved "Daddy" Pastor "went home to Jesus." More than 4,000 people viewed his body, held in state at Christ Church. Over 1,500 people, including the Governor of Maryland and his wife, pastors, seven of the ten ministerial sons and many deaconesses attended the funeral service.

The words of the pastor of Christ Church, Dr. John L. Deaton, delivered at the funeral service, sum up what everyone felt about Dr Leander M. Zimmerman: "Our sense of loss is very great, but our hearts are filled with gratitude. God gave us Dr. Zimmerman for a long, long time. Not many are privileged to sojourn on this earth for more than 91 years and still fewer fill their lives with such faithful service for the Lord and Master and the children of men. Through Dr. Zimmerman's ministry, more than that of any other person, God has given us our beloved Church Home. Thousands have been drawn closer to God by his ministry through the spoken and written word. His zeal for the Kingdom was untiring and continued to the very end of his life. Books could be written about his life and ministry."

"The Period of Beginning" can be described as the work of the grace of God in a great pastor, spiritually infecting the family of God with zeal and outstanding loyalty to the Kingdom of God and "The Church You Can't Forget."

THE PERIOD OF GREATER ORGANIZATION

Although Dr. Zimmerman was the guiding star in the history of Christ Church, he had excellent help in such consecrated deaconesses as Sister Carrie Taylor who served faithfully for some forty years beginning in December, 1901 and Sister Bertha Schwanewede, who served

from 1921-1929 under the first and second pastors. Under these same two pastors, the first two ministerial sons of Christ Church were ordained: The Rev. Arthur C. Waldkoenig in 1923 and the Rev. Carroll S. Klug in 1928. Twelve more ministerial sons were to come from Christ Church in the years ahead.

In the spring of 1925 the congregation extended a call to the second pastor of Christ Church, the Rev. Oscar Fisher Blackwelder. At the age of 27 this young man took upon himself a great responsibility. His ministry of eight years as the pastor of Christ Church can best be described as that of tremendous youthful enthusiasm, warmth of spirit and superior pulpit eloquence. He was born in Newberry, South Carolina, March 6, 1898 and received his higher education at Roanoke College, Virginia and the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia, South Carolina. He began his ministry at Christ Church on the first Sunday in September, 1925. He was to become one of the most "popular" preachers in the Lutheran Church in America.

It was during the pastorate of Dr. Blackwelder that a regular full-time Church Staff was set-up and the congregation organized so efficiently that Christ Church became a center of attraction for "downtown" church life. Under his guidance a weekly four-page church bulletin was published from September through June each year. A Church Office was opened each weekday from 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. and 9 A.M. to 1 P.M. on Saturday. Miss Dora Lingle, a native of Salisbury, North Carolina became the first full-time secretary. For nineteen years she served efficiently and faithfully under the second and third pastors until her death, October 11, 1944 at forty-seven years of age. Miss Olga Linsenmeyer served as director of Young People's work for one year until her marriage in 1926. During the period 1927-1929 the Rev. Hugh J. Rhyne served as the first Assistant Pastor with the main responsibility of youth work. Under his leadership a Children's Church Service was held in the old "Lecture Room" with as many as 485 children in 1928.

Under Dr. Blackwelder's leadership a Luther League was begun in 1925 with an attendance of 507 growing to almost 600 members, making it the largest "Young People's Society" in the United Lutheran Church in America. Many additional organizations and programs began during the eight-year pastorate of this young, dynamic minister: a dramatic club in 1926, expansion of new departments of the Sunday School in the same year, a Ladies' Bowling League in 1927, sports' teams and a Boy Scout Troop in 1927, expansion of the Luther League for younger children in 1928 and 1933, Vacation Bible School in 1927, a Ladies' Aid Society which had increased to over 600 members by 1927, Sunday School picnics at Carlin's Park and Tolchester Beach as well as many other highly successful events.

It was truly a period of intensive organization and magnificent growth. It was a normal occasion to have 1100 members in attendance at Church on Sunday morning, 800 in attendance on Sunday evening and a little less than 800 at Wednesday evening "prayer meetings." After evening services the "Lecture Room" was filled for the informal question and answer program conducted by Dr. Blackwelder. Over 1,000 members attended Sunday School every Lord's Day. Additional properties were bought on Hill Street to house the Sunday School. How fondly the "old-timers" remember the crowded conditions of the Sunday School and Church.

A Capital Funds Appeal was begun in the Fall of 1928 for new facilities for the growing congregation. The fruits of this phase of Christ Church fell, however, to a new pastor of the beloved congregation.

After the resignation of Assistant Pastor Hugh Rhyne, Miss Mary Propst assumed the responsibilities of youth work and parish visitation for three-and-a-half years. On May 15, 1930 the Rev. Roy L. Sloop, ordained by the Pittsburgh Synod, accepted the call as Assistant Pastor. For seven years this fine and gracious "man of God" rendered a warm and compassionate ministry to the "Church You Can't Forget." He was deeply loved and esteemed as he served under the second and third pastors of Christ Church.

The years 1925-1934 were truly glorious years for the congregation. They might well be called "The Golden Age" of the Church. Almost fifty years before, it was written in the history of the congregation that occupied our first building on Hill Street, "There is no future here." The building had, therefore, been abandoned in 1887. During the years 1925-1934 two additional ministerial sons entered college and seminary to prepare for the pastorate—the Rev. Howard O. Walker and the Rev. Augustus Hackmann. They have been living examples of the inspiration, loyalty and warmth of dedication that characterized Christ Church during these wonderful years. Thousands of members were lifted to great spiritual heights by the warmth of spiritual fervor, the glorious singing of hymns and the spirit of true "unity" that made Christ Church a great family of believers through the years and those which preceded them.

THE PERIOD OF LARGER UNITS

Dr. Blackwelder resigned his pastorate at Christ Church in October 1933, after eight very fruitful years of service, to accept a call to the Lutheran Church of the Reformation in Washington, D. C. After twenty-one very outstanding years as a pastor in the Nation's Capitol, he retired prematurely because of illness in 1954. He died April 6, 1961.

During the year following Dr. Blackwelder's resignation from Christ Church, 1933-1934, Dr. Zimmerman preached at the Sunday morning service and Pastor Sloop on Sunday evening.

Beginning with 1934 a new and dramatic period began for Christ Church which we have called "The Period of Larger Units." On the 46th Anniversary celebration in December 1933 a call was extended by the congregation to Pastor John Leroy Deaton. Dr. Deaton began his ministry with us on February 1, 1934. Great accomplishments marked the ministry of this outstanding pastor during his almost twenty-seven years of service.

Dr. Deaton graduated from Lenoir Rhyne College in 1915 and the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia in 1918. He was ordained by the Ministerium of Pennsylvania in 1918 and served as pastor of the Lutheran Church of the Atonement in Wyomissing, Pennsylvania for five years and Lutheran Church of the Advocate in Germantown, Philadelphia for over nine years before coming to Christ Church.

Because of the crowded and impossible physical conditions of the Sunday School, the new pastor almost immediately initiated a Capital Funds Appeal for a new Sunday School building to add to the previous money raised for a new Church during the period of Dr. Blackwelder. The congregation responded faithfully to the new leader and to their Saviour. The new "Parish Hall" included a "Fellowship Hall" with a seating capacity of over 700 people, 22 individual class rooms, an overflow with an additional seating capacity of 200, a large kitchen and a beautiful Children's Chapel directly beneath the Fellowship Hall. The new facility, named the "Zimmerman Parish Hall" was begun on July 7, 1935 and dedicated on June 14, 1936 at a cost of $275,000. Four years later on September 29, 1940 the debt of $47,500 was liquidated. The architect for this beautiful structure, as well as the future new church building, was Mr. Philip H. Frohman of Washington, D. C. In the foyer of the new "Parish Hall" there is a bas-relief of Dr. Zimmerman with the words "Friend, Counselor, Author" carved below. During the following year, 1937, the old church building was renovated and a new chancel installed. During this period of reconstruction the new "Parish Hall" was used for church worship. The Fellowship Hall in the new building is also now used for at least 20 fellowship suppers a year, for dramatic performances by the "Hill Street Players" organized in 1957, the "Christ Church Concert Association" organized in 1970 and for many other types of church and community gatherings.

Termites precipitated the next great change in the physical facilities of Christ Church. These destructive insects were discovered in the floors of the old church building as early as 1942. During the years of World War II one of the many service men who were entertained and housed

by the congregation was surprised when his foot went through the "Lecture Room" floor. From that time on Dr. Deaton kept the congregation well-informed of the activity of these pests. Finally the pastor could tolerate their activity no longer since the building had become unsafe for public use. As a matter-of-fact when the old church building was finally demolished in 1955 termites were found even on the second floor of the building. The roof structure was less than 50% of the strength required by the Baltimore City building code. Apparently the whole structure at that time was supported by the "Parish House" and the organ chamber. Even the box in the cornerstone of the almost 100-year-old building was a "sopping wet mass." There was indeed sound foundation for Dr. Deaton's assertion that a new church building was necessary. The old "Daddy Pastor," Dr. Zimmerman, reinforced this statement of need. When these two great "patriarchs" of Christ Church initiated the proposal, the members of the congregation were convinced.

We will return to these wonderful years 1942-1955 later. To continue the story, the congregation conducted a Capital Funds Appeal for the new Church in 1955, although as early as 1950 $200,000 had already been raised for this purpose. The goal in September 1955 was set at $250,000 to be contributed over a three-year period. By October 16, 1955 the total pledges of the members amounted to $463,615.10—almost twice as large as the goal. Goals mean nothing to the faithful family of "The Church You Can't Forget"—the congregation always goes beyond the goals. Everyone is always surprised at this—except ourselves. It's "old hat" to us. We consider "nothing impossible with God." On May 18, 1958 the Service of Dedication was held with three morning services. Our new church building, at a cost of over one million dollars, was to become the only religious building of any kind to be built in the inner city for over forty years—on the very site where in 1887 someone wrote in a church history, "There is no future here." Less than three years after dedication the congregation was "debt-free." If Dr. Deaton had lived three more months he would have presided at the burning of the mortgage on February 12, 1961. During his twenty-six years as pastor, all of the present facilities of Christ Church were built.

During the years 1937-1958 Christ Church experienced the second "Golden Age" of its history, literally and figuratively. In 1937 special services commemorating fifty years of history were conducted throughout the year. The "Golden Jubilee" historical booklet, mostly the product of one of our faithful ministerial sons, was published. More than 5,000 persons attended the total services of that 50th Anniversary Day.

The "highlights" of this period of our Church are legion. We call your attention to just a few of them. As many as 1,600 members attended Thanksgiving Day Service. On Easter, 1948, 2,300 members at-

tended the 11 o'clock service. Many will remember how the Church was filled to capacity, people sat on the floors and back steps of the balconies and the congregation was seated all the way back to and on the stage of the Fellowship Hall. In 1957 the annual Thank Offering reached a high of $11,464.92. The Easter Offering of 1958 reached a total of $11,697.30. Longer periods of catechetical instruction were instituted. Good Friday service increased greatly in attendance. An Altar Guild was organized in 1942 honoring the memory of Sister Carrie Taylor. An acolyte group was organized in 1948. The "Crusaders," a group of ten laymen, began weekly visitation on members in 1951. After 1937 the annual congregational excursion to Tolchester was sponsored by the Sunday School. (It was begun originally by the Ladies' Aid Society) How many remember the "Louise," the "Emma Giles," and "The Bear Mountain" as they sailed down the Chesapeake Bay with more than 1,000 Christ Church members, children and adults on board!

The first issue of the "Christ Church Visitor" was mailed to the members of the congregation in January, 1936. After the death of Miss Lingle various women of our congregation served in the church office until the employment of Miss Juanita Horton in 1945 as secretary. She served only two years. From the Fall of 1945 until November of 1948 women of the parish served as part-time secretaries and office assistants, including Miss Doris Boylan (now Mrs. Lazarus Azhderian) and Mrs. Henry (Alice) Botthof. On November 11, 1948 Miss Eva Zumbrun from York, Pennsylvania, became office secretary of Christ Church. For almost twenty-five years she has served with sincere Christian dedication and outstanding efficiency, with great sacrifice of time and talent and with a graciousness that has endeared her to all the members. No member of the Christ Church Staff throughout the entire history of the congregation has been more knowledgeable concerning the life and members of the Church with the exception of Dr. Zimmerman and Dr. Deaton.

In 1937 Pastor Howard O. Walker became the Assistant Pastor of Christ Church, following his graduation from the Gettysburg Theological Seminary in 1935. He was eminently qualified to render an important service, not only because he had served the congregation in many capacities before his ordination, but also because of his natural ability and extensive knowledge of the parish. He was the third ministerial son and the first to return to his home church as a pastor. Though he accepted a call to St. Peter's Lutheran Church in York, Pennsylvania in April 1941 and continued there until his retirement in June, 1972, he has always remained warmly attached to the home Church in his native South Baltimore, which Church also gave to him one of its finest young women in marriage.

In May, 1937, the Rev. Augustus Hackmann, D.D., became the fourth ministerial son of Christ Church and has served with distinction three parishes. He is presently the pastor of Second Lutheran Church in Baltimore.

In May 1941 the Rev. Rodger M. Singer became an Assistant Pastor of our Church and rendered a valuable service for almost five years before he left to become a missionary in Hong Kong. Dr. Singer has returned to Christ Church during each furlough and is partially supported in his work in Hong Kong through our benevolence contributions.

During the years 1938-1945 Christ Church called two deaconesses to the Church Staff. Sister Vernetta Kunkel served from 1938-1945 and Sister Janet Coiner from 1945-1961. Both of these women gave untiring and devoted service to our congregation.

From 1945-1950 the Rev. Howard O. Baily brought a devoted ministry as our fifth Assistant Pastor. Though he gave so much of himself to Christ Church for which we are grateful, he also took from our beloved congregation one of our cherished daughters in marriage when he accepted a call to Trinity Lutheran Church in Fort Washington, Pennsylvania. He is still the pastor of that fine congregation.

Mrs. Charles (Edna) White, widow of a former much-loved organist of Christ Church, served first as a parish worker and later as office assistant from 1947 until her death in 1960.

The Rev. Donald W. Sanner followed the Rev. William Rappold (1951-1952) as the seventh Assistant Pastor. During the two years of his ministry, 1953-1955, under Dr. Deaton, he not only endeared himself to our members as a pastor but endeared himself to one particular member of a faithful Christ Church family, whom he later took as his wife.

During the years 1940-1953 seven more young men were to enter the ministry of the Lutheran Church: Lawrence D. Folkemer and Carl W. Folkemer in 1940, Leigh W. Bell and Gordon E. Folkemer in 1944, Edgar C. Koehnlein in 1949, Donald Gallion in 1951 and L. Crosby Deaton in 1953. The last of the seven, Pastor Crosby Deaton was the second son to return to his home congregation as the first Associate Pastor of Christ Church in 1955. He also took as his bride another of Christ Church's fine young women. For four years he served with distinction and with real dedication before accepting the call as pastor of Holy Comforter Lutheran Church in Baltimore. It was during this period that the twelfth ministerial son of Christ Church, Barron Maberry, was ordained in 1958. During the same period of history another devoted member of the Church served part-time with real sacrifice and devotion, Mrs. Marie Boylan. Her efforts were

largely directed to children of the Sunday School from 1956-1959. Mrs. Edith Jones came as office assistant in the year 1960 and retired in December 1971.

The period of Dr. Deaton's pastorate (a little over twenty-six years) was truly one of "larger units." This third great "patriarch" of Christ Church was not only an excellent pastor, but also a strong preacher, able administrator and a servant of the "Church-at-large." He was known throughout the greater Baltimore area through the Christ Church Sunday radio broadcast, and through his leading role in leading the Temperance League's successful fight in 1953 to eliminate the sale of alcoholic beverages on Sunday. He served as President of the Council of Churches of Maryland, a member of the Board of Legal Aid Bureau, a member for twelve years of the Board of Higher Education of the United Lutheran Church in America and its President for eight years, for twenty years as a member of the United Lutheran Church's Committee on Church Architecture and its Chairman for thirteen years, President of the Deaconess Board of the United Lutheran Church, President of the Board of the Lutheran Inner Mission Society of Baltimore, Chairman of the Examining Committee of the Maryland Synod and a member of many other committees and agencies of the Church. His first love and his primary devotion was to Christ Lutheran Church. Nothing interfered with his untiring labors for "The Church You Can't Forget." He was honored by our Church on many occasions, the last on the occasion of his 25th year as pastor —February 8, 1959. His last written message to the congregation was his annual Thank Offering appeal in 1960. His letter on that occasion ended with the words, "God does his best for us, let us always do our best for Him." This message beautifully describes his long service to Christ Church. He was laid to his eternal rest on November 8, 1960.

THE PERIOD OF WIDER HORIZONS

Dr. Deaton often said, "God has placed us here in South Baltimore to do His work. With His grace He will give us strength to remain and witness here." This was in answer to some critics who felt Christ Church should move elsewhere and not invest in facilities that would be worthless in the years to come. Subsequent history of the Church would indicate the prophetic truth of this statement.

After Dr. Deaton's death a great burden of responsibility fell upon the young Assistant Pastor, Rodney Gatzke. Miss Eva Zumbrun, secretary, and Mrs. Marie Boylan, part-time visitation parish worker, assisted Pastor Gatzke during this difficult year until the calling of a new pastor. Dr. Lawrence Folkemer, ministerial son and Professor of Theology at the Gettysburg Seminary, served faithfully during this period as "Supply Preacher" and in many other pastoral duties.

In October 1961 Dr. Warren C. Johnson, a former pastor of Second Lutheran Church in Baltimore and Secretary of the Board of Foreign Missions of the United Lutheran Church in America, began his ministry as pastor of Christ Lutheran Church. An excellent and popular preacher with a warm Christian personality, he opened to Christ Church the possibilities of "wider horizons" of service in the community and throughout the greater Baltimore area. Dr. Johnson was ably assisted by Pastor J. Brooks Moore (1962-1964) and by Pastor Russell M. Long (1963-1965). As a pastoral team they worked together with genuineness of spirit and for the best interests of the congregation. During this very important transition period, catechetical instruction was extended to three years, the Lutheran Church Women came into existence in conformity with the policy of the Lutheran Church in America, a new congregational constitution was adopted including a new name for Christ Church (the word "English" was dropped), the Church Council reduced to fifteen members each serving a term of three years, the Sunday evening service was dropped, the beginning of a family Christmas social gathering, additional youth programs were initiated, the Boy Scout program reorganized and a Christian social mission program proposed which was to open the door for greater opportunities in the years to come. In 1964 the thirteenth ministerial son of Christ Church, Ralph Welsh, graduated from the Gettysburg Seminary and was ordained to the gospel ministry shortly after. He also married one of the fine daughters of Christ Church.

Once more a ministerial son of Christ Church returned to serve his home congregation. On May 24, 1965, Dr. Carl W. Folkemer (the fifth ministerial son to be ordained) began his ministry as the pastor of our great Church. He was formally installed on the very day and in the same congregation where he and his wife (the former Ruth Morganthall) were married twenty-three years before—Pentecost, June 6, 1965. Who but a grateful ministerial son could better understand the history, the accomplishments, the needs and wonderful spirit of "The Church You Can't Forget." Dr. Folkemer and his wife were both baptized by Dr. Zimmerman, confirmed by Dr. Blackwelder and married by Dr. Deaton. Both their families have been faithful and devoted members of Christ Church. Mrs. Folkemer's grandfather served on the first Church Council in 1887 and was the first treasurer of the congregation. The new pastor, since early childhood, has always had a great love and loyalty for his home congregation. Once more he was to look into the faces and now to serve as pastor "those loved long since and lost awhile." The congregation surrounded its son with genuine affection and was soon to respond to his leadership in Christian service and with fervent and sacrificial zeal.

With one of the most beautiful church buildings in the whole Lutheran Church in America and excellent Sunday School facilities, Christ Church must now turn its attention to "wider horizons" of service. The Greater Christ Church Committee of some thirty members made a thorough study of human needs to which it could identify. This study group made use of professional church agencies and considered its own congregation in which members of the Church were being cared for in thirty-five different nursing homes, most of which left much to be desired in personal concern and decent medical and health care. In addition, with a congregation of many older people, extensive consideration was given to pleasant and adequate housing for such individuals. Already we had initiated social service in the community with extensive use of Mr. Zabawa, Pastor Fogarty (our Assistant Pastor) and Mr. Ernst, a social worker, as leaders.

After extensive negotiations with city, state and federal government officials and agencies, we made our decision on the course of action Christ Church should take. This included a Medical Center to give quality medical and nursing care to those in need with a warm and personal concern for the individual; an apartment buiding for moderate income elderly, and an office building to house professional persons and agencies within the city who would minister to the "Christ Church Complex" as well as the surrounding South Baltimore community.

Now that the goal was set the great "dream" was placed before the congregation. How would this great Church respond? Just as it has to every great challenge—with vigor and determination to serve the people of God. It was on January 23, 1966 that the members of Christ Church adopted a resolution approving the concept of the plan, authorizing the committee to proceed with architectural drawings and coordination with concerned agencies of the church, city, state and federal government and most of all proceed in the preparation and execution of a Capital Funds Appeal. The Medical Center was to be named after the third pastor of Christ Church, Dr. John L. Deaton.

When the Fellowship Dinner for the Capital Funds Appeal was held at the Lord Baltimore Hotel on February 13, 1967, The Lutheran Laymen's Movement announced that realistically Christ Church members would contribute about $250,000 over a three-year period; if really dedicated to the idea, perhaps $350,000 ("but don't count on it"); and just to have another figure, $425,000. Our members know what happened. We pledged $419,000 but at the end of three years we had contributed $470,000. At the end of five years the total contributions reached almost $750,000. Where else but at Christ Church would you find such a response of love and loyalty. It must also be remembered that this was not to build a new church building or a Sunday School building, but to give over to corporations that were formed by the

Church Council—all of this money to serve the needs of all people, both in and outside the Church.

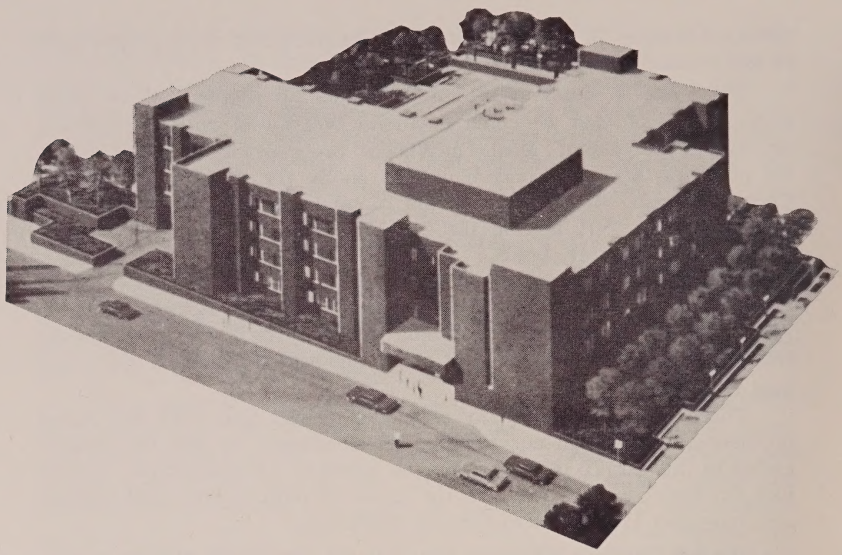
There are so many wonderful things to be written and so many great people of God we could mention. Worthy of special emphasis, perhaps, is the present "Meals-On-Wheels" program and the many different programs of social concern carried on by the organizations of the Church. Ground was broken for the "John L. Deaton Medical Center" on January 31, 1971 and on the "Christ Church Harbor Apartments," October 24, 1971. Mr. Louis F. Huber is the President of the Corporations formed to carry on this work and he has served in a magnificent manner. Dr. Folkemer serves as Chairman of the Boards. Mr. W. Albert Bortner was the first full-time person to be hired to coordinate this whole program. His efficient work and warm Christian spirit will long be remembered.

There have been so many wonderful spirits that God has raised up among us to assist our pastor, Dr. Folkemer, to lead the congregation to this service of "ever-widening horizons" of compassion: Pastors like Dr. Goetz who exemplified the finest of pastoral love and concern and now also Pastors Liesmann and Williamsen.

We are proud to announce also that our fourteenth ministerial son, Robert Maddox, Jr. will soon be ordained to the gospel ministry.

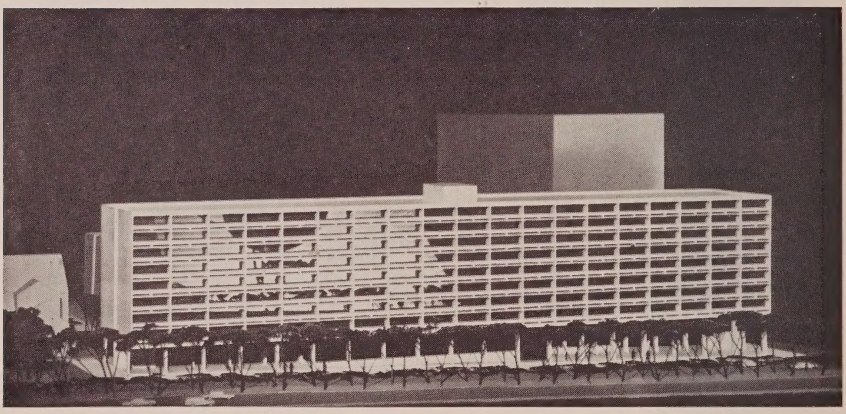
"The best is yet to be." This might well describe the years of Christ Church which lie before us. In December of 1971, the 84th Anniversary of the congregation, Dr. Folkemer in his "Tribute to a Congregation" wrote: ". . . the glory and the praise belong first to God. With God all things are possible. All God needs is a man, a woman, a child, a congregation that is responsive to His Grace and Power and Love. All that is needed is that we be found faithful. If all that we attempt to do now and in the future conforms to His Will and uses His Grace, then . . . the opportunities for greatness are in the years which lie before us at "The Church You Can't Forget."

JOHN L. DEATON MEDICAL CENTER



The above picture is a faithful artist's rendering of the John L. Deaton Medical Center. The building is facing Charles Street. This facility will contain 220-patient beds with a special unit for out-patient renal dialysis, physical and occupational therapy and Meditation Chapel.

CHRIST CHURCH HARBOR APARTMENTS



The above picture is a faithful artist's rendering of the Christ Church Harbor Apartments. There are 288 apartment units, 90% of which are one-bedroom units and 10% studio apartments. The building is facing Light Street, overlooking the harbor. Each apartment has its own balcony. The balcony extends the width of the apartment, enabling people to go out onto the balcony from either the bedroom and the living room. The building is completely air-conditioned, wall to wall carpeting, and all utilities are furnished.

CHURCH COUNCIL

December 10, 1972

Lazarus Azhderian
Milton L. Bacon
James T. Bolander
Donald G. Carson
Henry G. Erck, Treasurer
J. William Frank, Financial Secretary
Franklin Gadd
Albert Greif
Donald Greif
Louis F. Huber
Orin C. Jennings
C. Edward Jung
H. Gordon Kelly
R. Edward Kohlhafer
Martin F. Polk
Milton C. Smith, Secretary
Ronald S. Thomas
Martin L. Zimmerman, Vice President

Carl W. Folkemer, President

THE CHURCH STAFF

Carl W. Folkemer, D.D., Pastor
Justus H. Liesmann, Associate Pastor
Thomas P. Williamsen, Assistant Pastor

Eva Zumbrun, Church Secretary
Rosabelle Timm, Asst. Church Secty.
Paul Davis, Director of Music
Frank Hubbard, Carillonneur
Ernest Wright, Jr., Sexton
Velma Crites, Asst. to Sexton
Valfrids Elksnis, Part-Time Sexton
Rodger M. Singer, Missionary to Hong Kong

OUR SERVICES

Sundays

8:30 A.M.—The Service

(8 A.M. Broadcast over WMAR-FM, 106.5 MC)

9:45 A.M.—Sunday School

11:00 A.M.—The Service

11:00 A.M.—The Children's Hour and Nursery

6.45 P.M.—Luther League

OUR ORGANIZATIONS

Sunday School Association
Adult Choir
Youth Choir
Chapel Choir
Christ Church Concert Association
Lutheran Church Women
Altar Guild
Men's Bowling League
Women's Bowling League
The Hill Street Players
Luther League
Acolyte's Guild
Boy Scout Troop

Christ English Lutheran Church

OF SOUTH BALTIMORE.

TRIUMPH HALL,

1240 LIGHT STREET, bet. West and Ostend Sts.

A long felt need for an English Lutheran Sunday School and Church in South Baltimore has been met, and on Sunday, December 18th, 1887, services will be held in Triumph Hall, 1240 Light Street.

PREACHING—Sundays 11 A. M. and 7.30 P. M.

SUNDAY SCHOOL—Sundays 9.30 A. M.

We extend a most cordial invitation to all to attend our Sunday School and Church services, and will be glad to have you make your church-home with us.

Fraternally,

L. M. ZIMMERMAN, PASTOR.

THE FIRST INVITATION

IMPORTANT DATES IN THE HISTORY OF CHRIST CHURCH

December 1, 1887—Dr. Leander M. Zimmerman began his pastoral duties.

December 18, 1887—First Religious Service held in Triumph Hall, 1240 Light Street.

February 5, 1888—Congregation Organized.

August 12, 1888—First Service held in Church (Purchased old Methodist Church).

November 25, 1888—Church Dedicated.

December 1, 1888—Became Self-Supporting.

October 14, 1894—Church Rededicated after being remodeled.

December 15, 1907—Twentieth Anniversary Celebration.

April 19, 1925—Dr. Zimmerman resigned.

September 1, 1925—Dr. Blackwelder began his pastorate.

December 18, 1927—Fortieth Anniversary Celebration.

October 15, 1933—Dr. Oscar F. Blackwelder preached Farewell Sermon.

February 1, 1934—Dr. John L. Deaton came to Christ Church.

July 7, 1935—Ground-Breaking for Leander Zimmerman Parish House.

September 29, 1935—Cornerstone Laid for Leander Zimmerman Parish House.

June 14, 1936—Parish House Dedicated.

October 31, 1937—Church Rededicated.

December 5-15, 1937—Golden Jubilee.

September 29, 1940—Burning of Mortgage on Parish House.

March 10, 1952—Dr. Zimmerman, Pastor Emeritus, entered Church Triumphant.

December 14, 1952—Sixty-Fifth Anniversary Celebration.

October 16, 1955—Ground-Breaking for Greater Christ Church.

June 3, 1956—Cornerstone Laid for Greater Christ Church.

May 18, 1958—Greater Christ Church Dedicated.

December 21, 1958—Carillon Dedicated.

November 8, 1960—Dr. Deaton entered Church Triumphant.

February 12, 1961—Burning of Mortgage on Greater Christ Church.

October 1, 1961—Dr. Warren C. Johnson came to Christ Church.

December 16, 1962—Seventy-Fifth Anniversary Celebration.

June 14, 1964—Dr. Johnson preached Farewell Sermon.

May 24, 1965—Dr. Carl W. Folkemer began his pastoral duties. Installation on June 6, 1965.

May, 1966—The beginning of the plans of the Greater Christ Church Project including the John L. Deaton Medical Center and the Apartment Dwelling for older people.

December 10, 1967—Eightieth Anniversary Celebration.

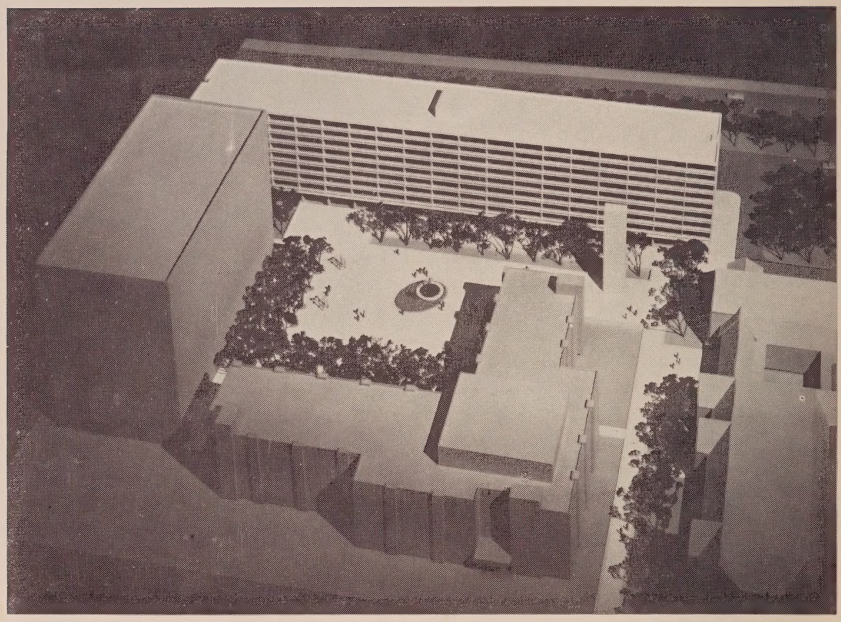
January 31, 1971—Ground-Breaking Service of the John L. Deaton Medical Center, Inc.

October 24, 1971—Ground-Breaking Service of the Christ Church Harbor Apartments, Inc.

December 12, 1971—Laying of the Cornerstone of the John L. Deaton Medical Center, Inc.

December 10, 1972—Eighty-Fifth Anniversary Celebration and Dedication of the John L. Deaton Medical Center.

Christ Church Complex



The above picture is an artist's rendering of the proposed complex of Christ Church buildings. On the far right is the present Church and Parish House Building; in front of it, looking North, toward downtown, is the Plaza. At the top, along Light Street is the Apartment Building; in the center, Charles Street, showing the Medical Center and on the far left is an office building for various social service agencies with an inner Plaza between the buildings. This will be a very beautiful setting for the Christ Church complex.